Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

PAGE 01 BONN 09349 021302Z

45
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-11 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 OIC-04 RSR-01

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SUBJECT: PRESS RESPONSE TO EC COUNCIL AGREEMENT ON
MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (MTN)

1. SUMMARY. THE FRG PRESS GAVE GOOD COVERAGE ON
FEBRUARY 27 TO THE EC COUNCIL'S AGREEMENT ON THE
COMMUNITY'S APPROACH TO THE FORTHCOMING. MTN. ALTHOUGH
NOTING THE VAGUENESS OF CERTAIN COMPROMISE
FORMULATIONS, MOST STORIES GIVE FULL CREDIT TO THE
COMMUNITY FOR BEING THE FIRST OF THE MAJOR PARTICIPANTS
TO FIX ITS COURSE FOR THE MTN. THE "SUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG"
AND THE "GENERAL ANZEIGER" TOOK THE LEAD AMONG THE
QUALITY PRESS IN PRAISING THE AGREEMENT AS A SUCCESS
FOR SUPPORTERS OF AN OPEN WORLD TRADING SYSTEM.
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2. THE "GENERAL ANZEIGER" CARRIED AN EDITORIAL ON THE
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PAGE 02 BONN 09349 021302Z

COUNCIL'S DECISION ENTITLED "OPEN MARKETS", IN WHICH
THE DECISION IS EVALUATED AS A SUCCESS "FOR THOSE WHO
ARE STRIVING WHOLEHEARTEDLY FOR INCREASED OPENING OF
MARKETS AND A FURTHER REDUCTION OF TARIFF AND OTHER
TRADE BARRIERS....THE EC HAS DECIDED TO TAKE THE LONG

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

RANGE VIEW -- THE SAME VIEW WHICH, CERTAIN NUANCES ASIDE, PRESIDENT NIXON TAKES. EVEN THOUGH THE COUNCIL DECISION INCLUDES MANY COMPROMISE FORMULATIONS, IT IS NEVERTHELESS CLEAR THAT THE COMMUNITY IS AIMING FOR 'MUTUAL' ADVANTAGES."

3. THE "GENERAL ANZEIGER" ALSO REPORTED THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION'S STATEMENT WELCOMING THE RESULTS OF THE LUXEMBOURG MEETING AND CHARACTERIZING IT AS AN ESSENTIAL STEP TOWARD STRENGTHENING OF THE GATT AND THE LIBERALIZATION OF WORLD TRADE TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL.

4. THE "SUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG", IN AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "MARKETS ARE TO BE MADE MORE OPEN - EC FOR REFORM OF THE GATT RULES", REPORTED THAT THE FORMULATIONS ARRIVED AT AT THE MEETING, THOUGH NOT FIXED IN DETAIL, INDICATED THE EUROPEAN INTENTION TO MAKE CURRENT THE SYSTEM ESTABLISHED IN THE GATT. "THE COMMUNITY DECLARES NEGOTIATING GOAL OF THE GATT ROUND TO BE 1. THE CONSOLIDATION AND CONTINUATION OF THE LIBERALIZATION OF WORLD TRADE ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL ADVANTAGE AND GLTBAL RECIPROCITY AND 2. THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE POSSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATION BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON THE EXPANSION OF WORLD TRADE."

5. THOSE PARTS OF THE COUNCIL'S DECLARATION WHICH DEALT WITH TARIFF LEVELS AND AGRICULTURE WERE GIVEN PARTICULAR ATTENTION. MOST PAPERS UNDERLINED THE COMMITMENT TO SEEK "A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN TARIFFS WITH THE GOAL OF HARMONIZING TARIFF RATES." THE "GENERAL ANZEIGER" ADDED THAT "PARIS CONCEDED THAT THE MTN SHOULD IN NO EVENT LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN THE INDIVIDUAL TARIFFS." THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUSION OF AGRICULTURE AS AN OBJECT OF NEGOTIATION WAS NOTED, AS WAS THE FRENCH SUCCESS IS ACHIEVING A FORMULATION THAT GAVE SOME PROTECTION TO THE MECHANISMS OF THE CAP.
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PAGE 03 BONN 09349 021302Z

6. MOST REPORTS ALSO CITED THE "INDIRECT CONNECTION" MADE BETWEEN PROGRESS IN MONETARY AND TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. SCORING THIS RESULT AS AN ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE FRG NEGOTIATORS, THE "FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU" NOTED THAT "THE FRENCH POSITION THAT A STABLE WORLD MONETARY ORDER (I.E., DOLLAR CONVERTIBILITY AS A GUARANTEE AGAINST FURTHER DOLLAR DEVALUATION) SHOULD BE IN SIGHT BEFORE THE GATT NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN WAS WATERED DOWN. NOW THE COUNCIL WILL TAKE "PROGRESS IN TH MONETARY FIELD" INTO CONSIDERATION ONLY WHEN EVALUATING THE RESULTS OF THE GATT ROUND, WHICH IS EXPECTED IN THREE TO FIVE YEARS AT THE EARLIEST."
HILLENBRAND

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